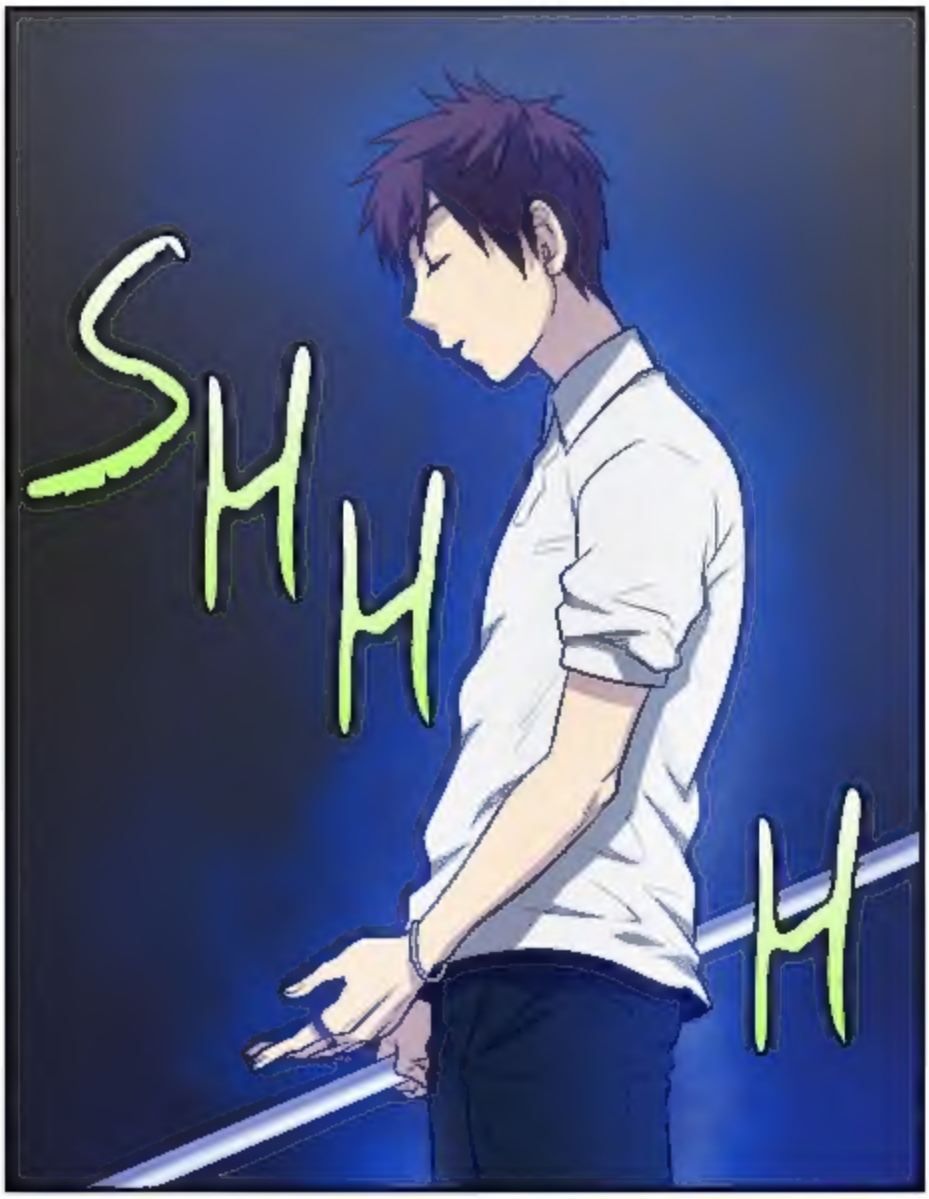
THE GAMER

STORY BY SANGYOUNG SEONG

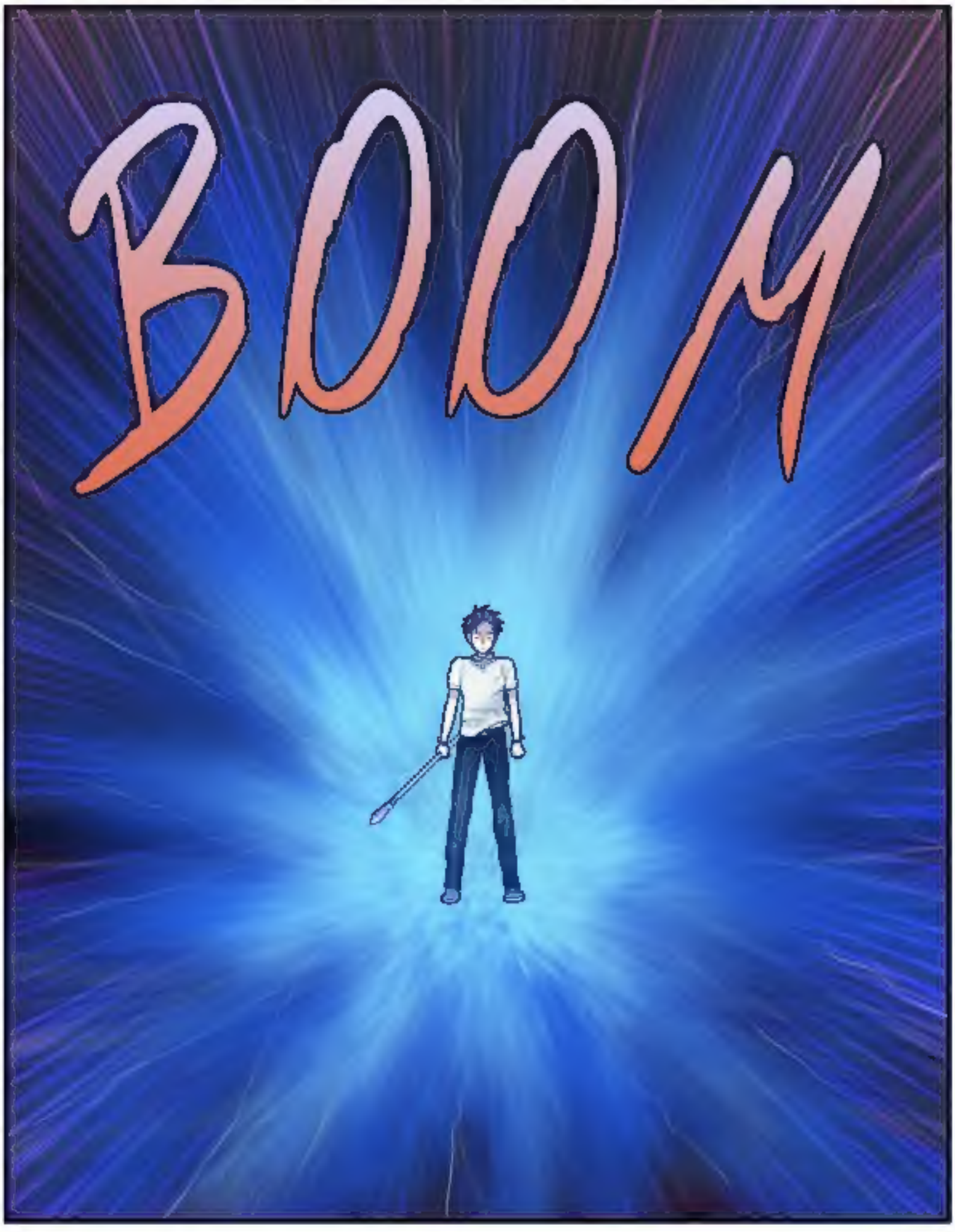
ILLUST BY SANG-A

THE TRICK IS SIMPLE.
YOU JUST MAKE THE ENERGY COLLIDE IN THE AIR.
OKAY.


SHHH

SSK

FLASH


BOOM

DING

YOU HAVE CREATED
THE BARRIER DESTRUCTION SKILL.

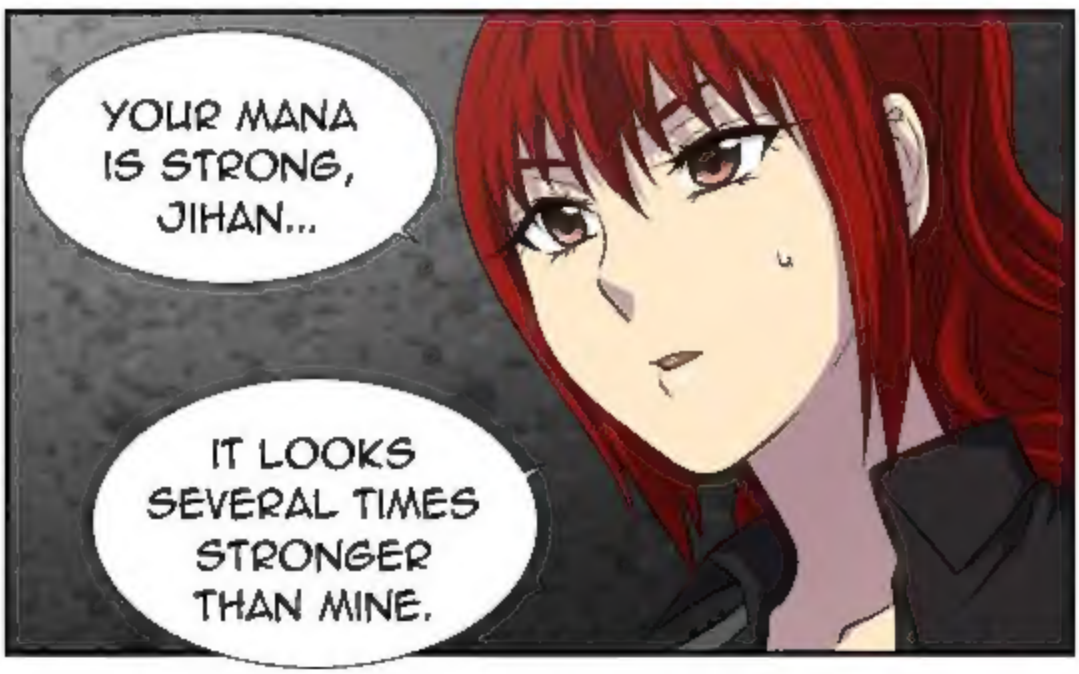
[BARRIER DESTRUCTION (ACTIVE)]
A SKILL WHICH USES MANA TO
DESTROY A BARRIER.
VARIES DEPENDING ON YOUR
INTELLIGENCE STATUS.

WHISH

BZZZZZT

PSSSHHH

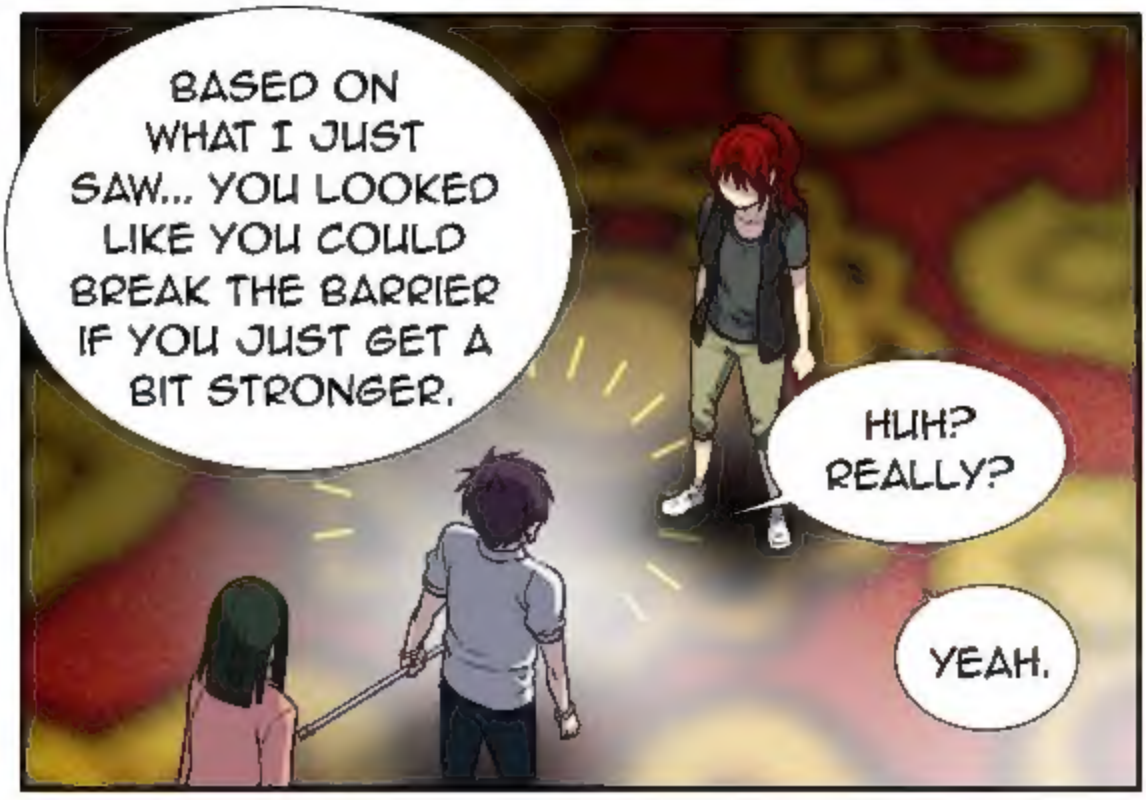
SHOOT, I'VE FAILED TOO.


YOUR MANA IS STRONG, JIHAN...
IT LOOKS SEVERAL TIMES STRONGER THAN MINE.

I'VE ONLY BEEN LEVELING UP MY MANA...

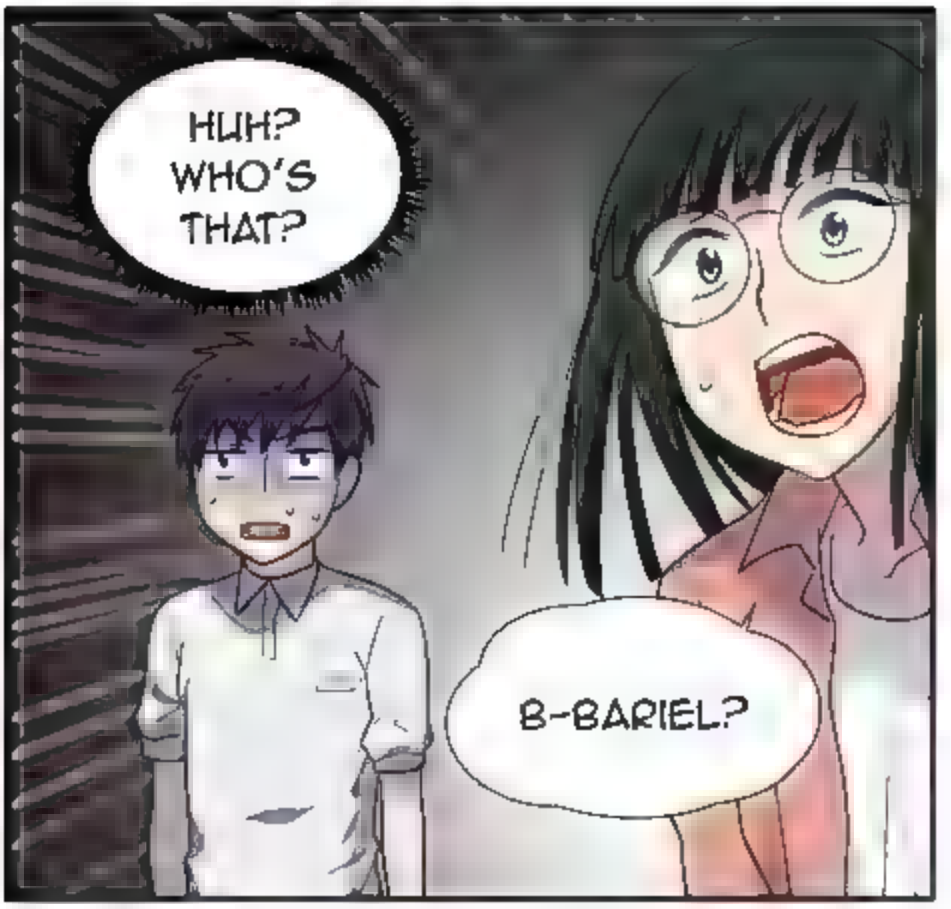
ANYWAY, THIS THING IS SO TOUGH TO BREAK... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

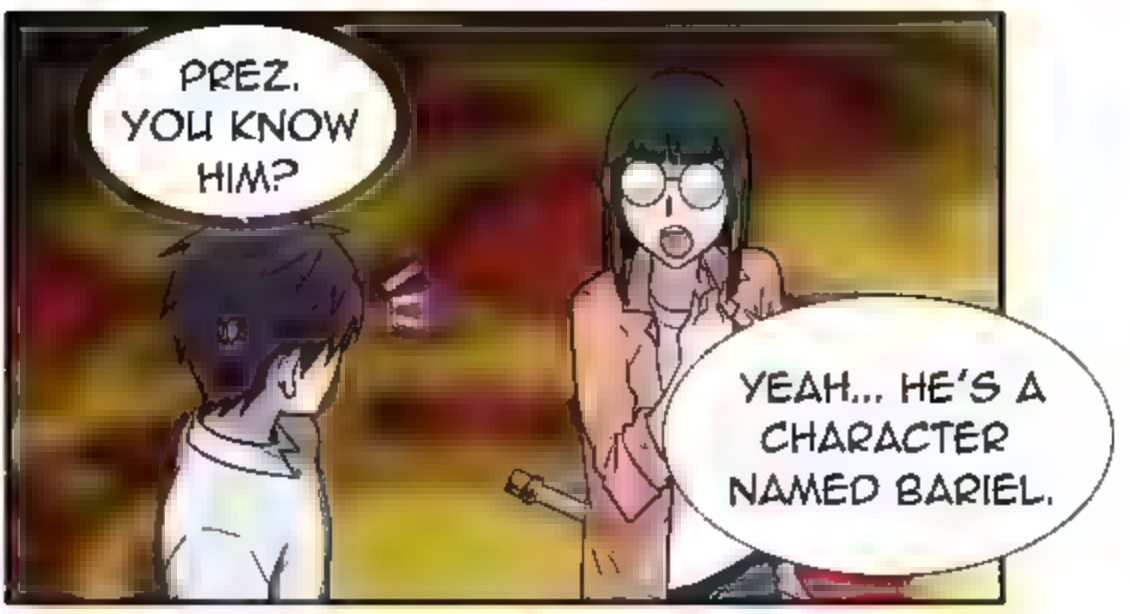
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET STRONGER.

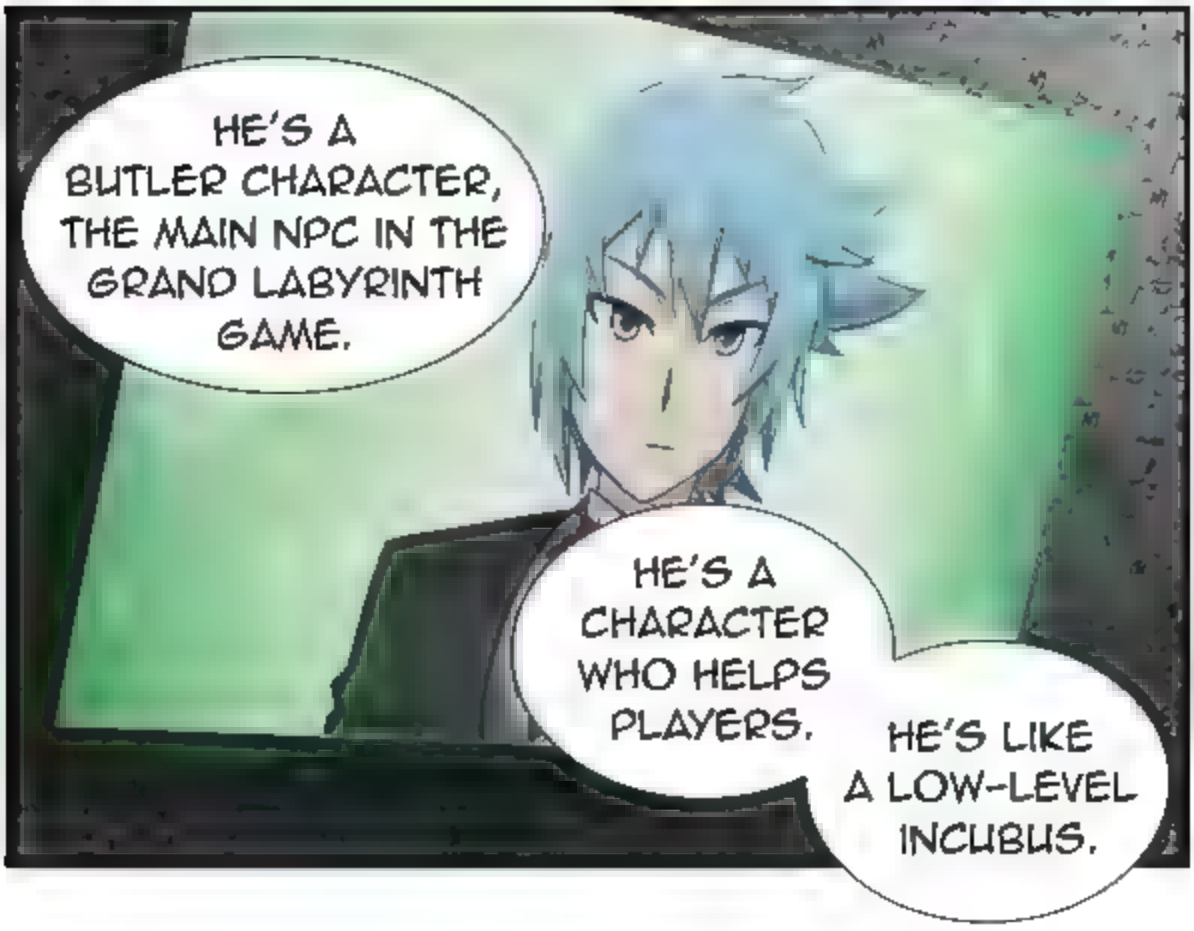

BASED ON WHAT I JUST SAW... YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU COULD BREAK THE BARRIER IF YOU JUST GET A BIT STRONGER.
HUH? REALLY?
YEAH.

THEN... SHOULD I LEVEL UP A BIT MORE?

BAMBARA

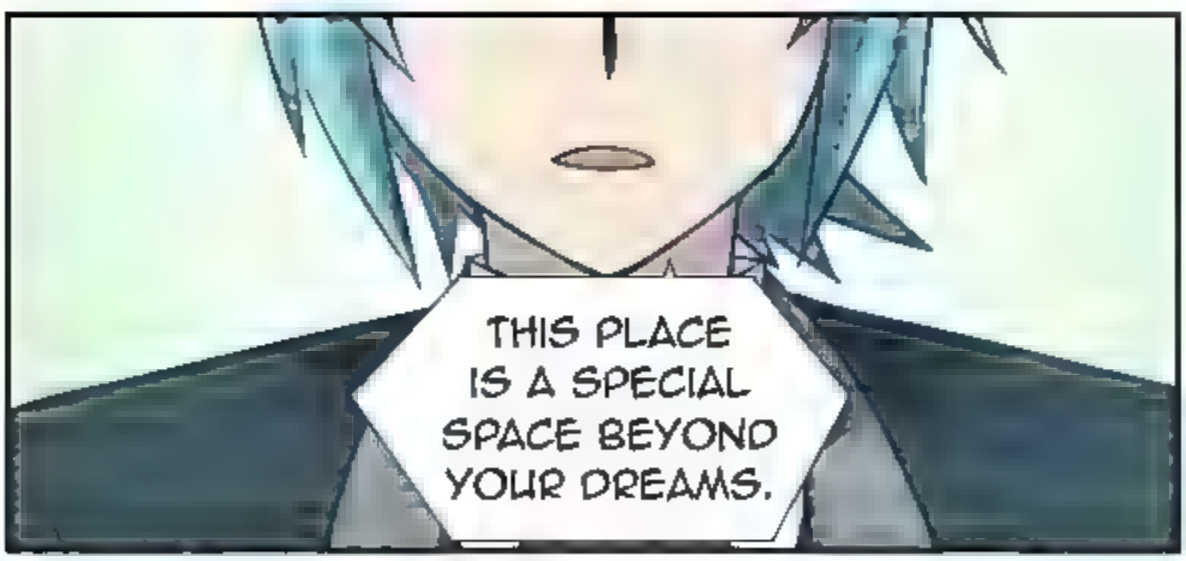

HUH? WHO'S THAT?
B-BARIEL?


PREZ. YOU KNOW HIM?
YEAH... HE'S A CHARACTER NAMED BARIEL.


HE'S A BUTLER CHARACTER, THE MAIN NPC IN THE GRAND LABYRINTH GAME.
HE'S A CHARACTER WHO HELPS PLAYERS.
HE'S LIKE A LOW-LEVEL INCUBUS.

THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME SINCE WHOEVER MADE THIS ILLUSIONARY BARRIER ALSO MADE THAT GAME.

WELCOME TO THE LABYRINTH, PLAYERS.
TODAY, THERE'S A SPECIAL EVENT. UNLIKE IN THE PAST, EVEN IF YOU DIE, YOU MAY BE REVIVED AND CONTINUE FIGHTING.


THIS PLACE IS A SPECIAL SPACE BEYOND YOUR DREAMS.

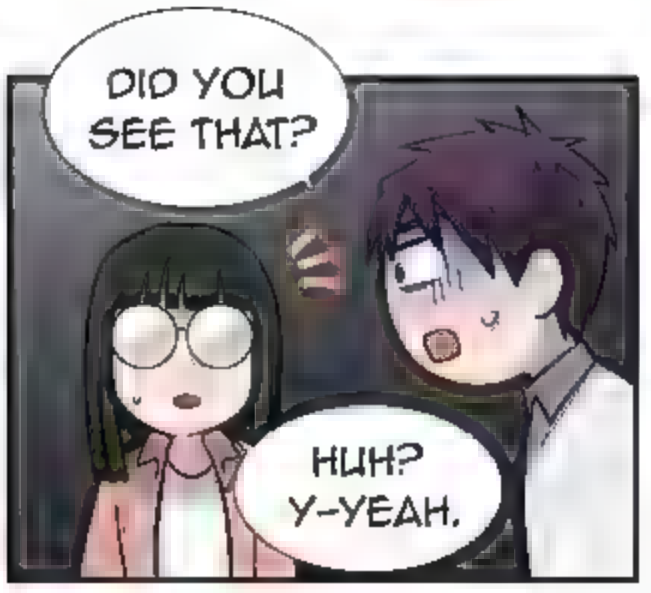
10 MINUTES HERE ARE ONE MINUTE IN THE REAL WORLD.
SO ENJOY YOURSELVES.

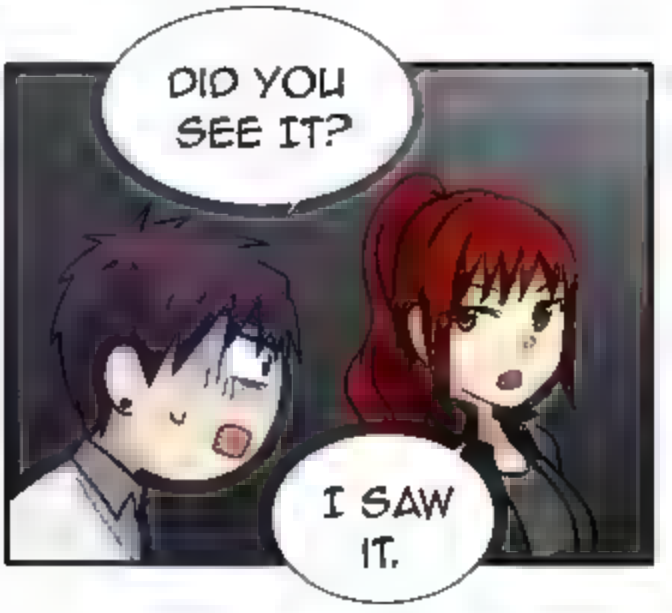
YOU MAY LEAVE THE LABYRINTH EITHER AFTER 100 HOURS OR IF YOU CLEAR THE 10TH FLOOR.
100 HOURS
10TH FLOOR
ALSO, THERE'S A SPECIAL REWARD WAITING FOR YOU IF YOU CLEAR THE 10TH FLOOR.

YOU MAY USE YOUR ABILITIES IN THIS DREAM EVEN IN REALITY.

ALRIGHT, GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT, EVERYONE!

BEEP


DID YOU SEE THAT?
HUH? Y-YEAH.

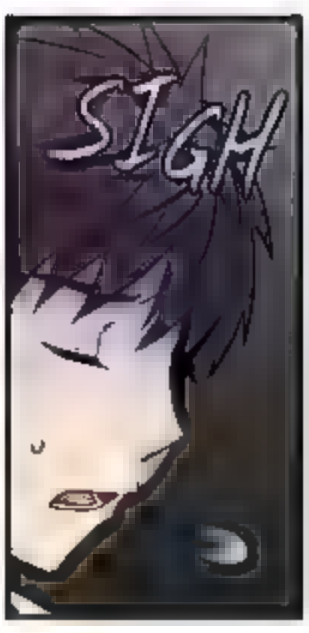

DID YOU SEE IT?
I SAW IT.

THIS IS NUTS... WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CREATOR OF THIS PLACE THINKING...?

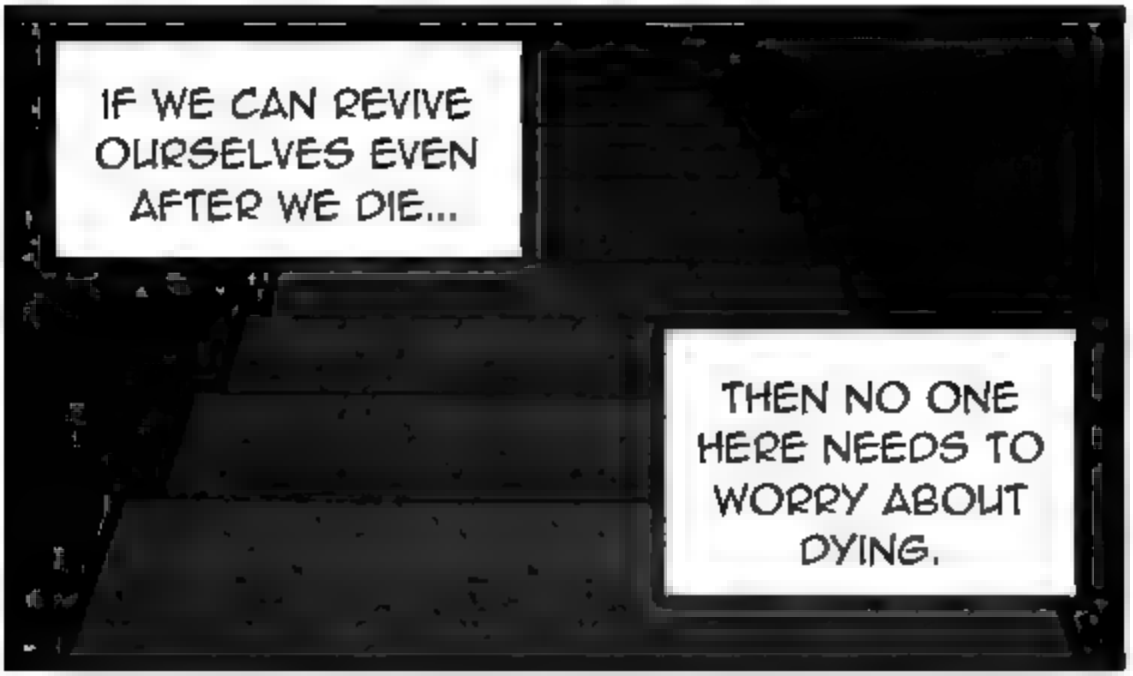
HUH?

HM?
SOMEONE KILLED THE BOSS FIRST?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
WHISPER
WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL IT REGENERATES.
WHISPER


SIGH

FOR NOW, LET'S GET GOING.
HM? OKAY.
ALRIGHT.

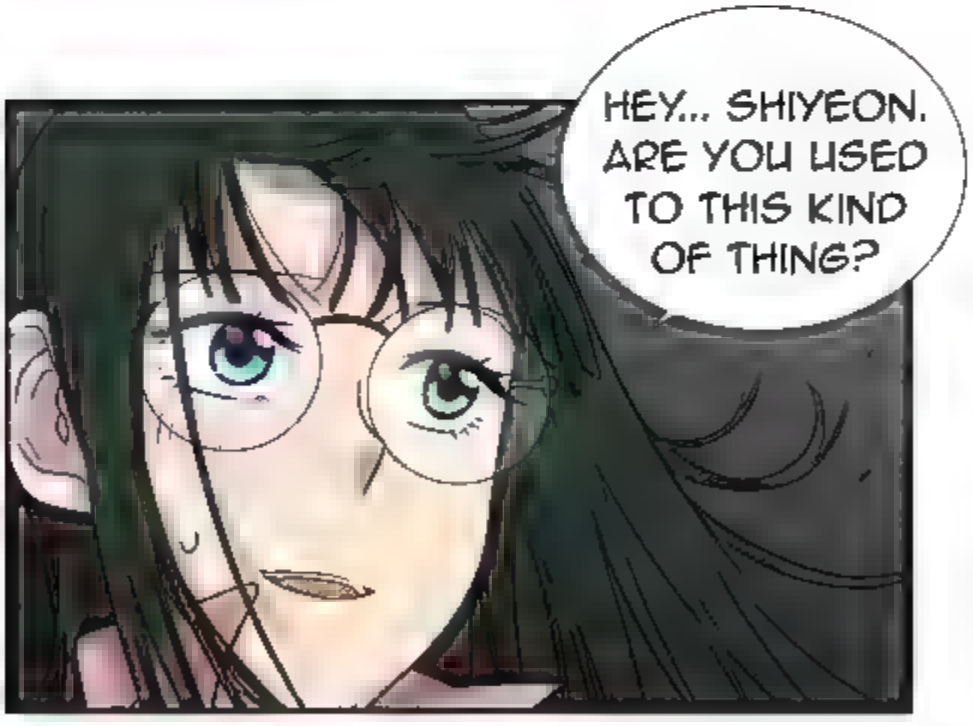

IF WE CAN REVIVE OURSELVES EVEN AFTER WE DIE...
THEN NO ONE HERE NEEDS TO WORRY ABOUT DYING.

I'LL CLEAR
THE 10TH FLOOR
FOR THEM!

THE GAMER

KSSS
HHHH

HM. YOU REALLY ARE STRONG AND FAST, JIHAN.


HEY... SHIYEON. ARE YOU USED TO THIS KIND OF THING?

YEAH. WHY?
KSSHH
BOOM
TAP TAP TAP
N-NOTHING. IT'S JUST... A BIT SURPRISING.

I SUGGEST YOU GET USED TO IT IF YOU'RE GOING TO BELONG TO THE ABYSS.

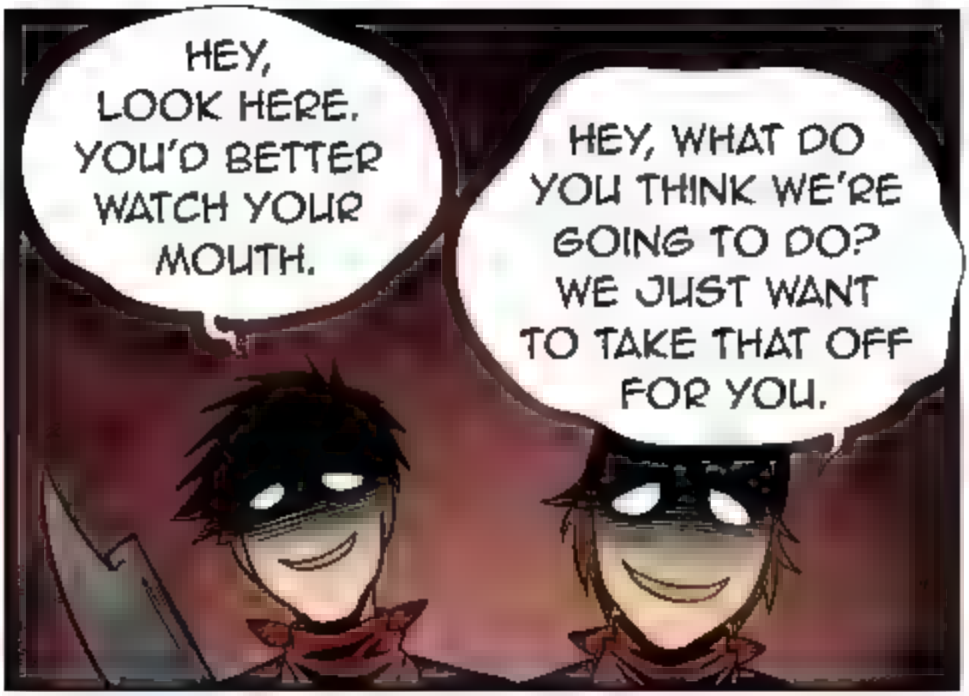
THEY'RE SURE GETTING ALONG WELL...
THEY MUST BE GETTING CLOSE QUICKLY SINCE THEY'RE GIRLS!

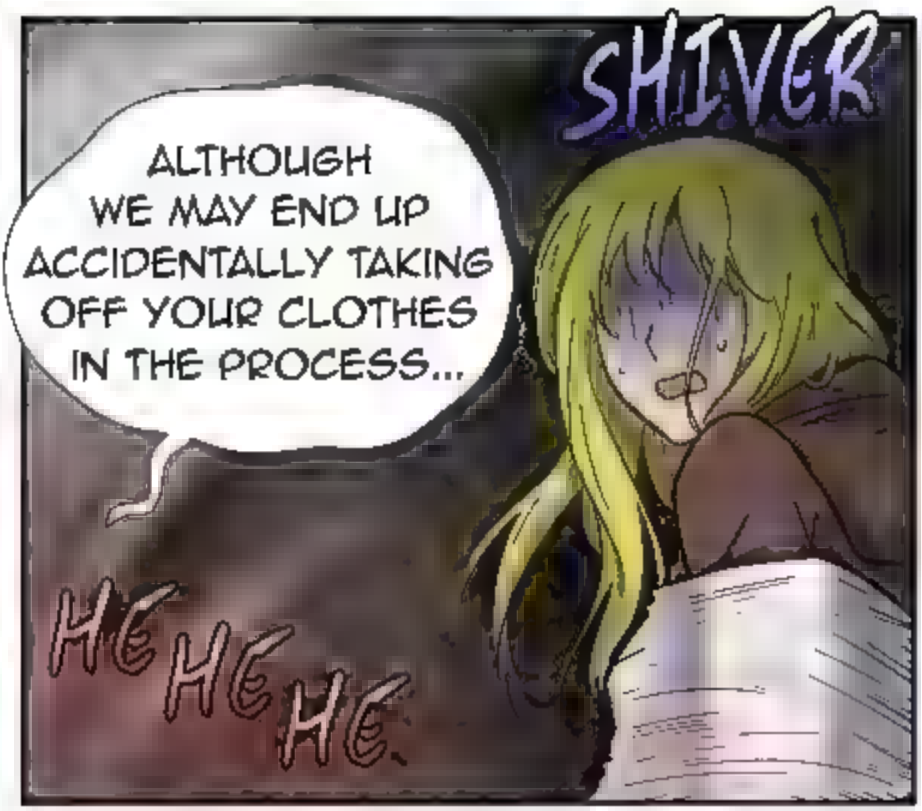
AAAHHHH

J-JIHAN!
SWOOSH
I'LL GO CHECK IT OUT!
WHOOSH

SWISH

G-GO AWAY!


HEY, LOOK HERE. YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO DO? WE JUST WANT TO TAKE THAT OFF FOR YOU.


ALTHOUGH WE MAY END UP ACCIDENTALLY TAKING OFF YOUR CLOTHES IN THE PROCESS...
SHIVER
HEHEHE.

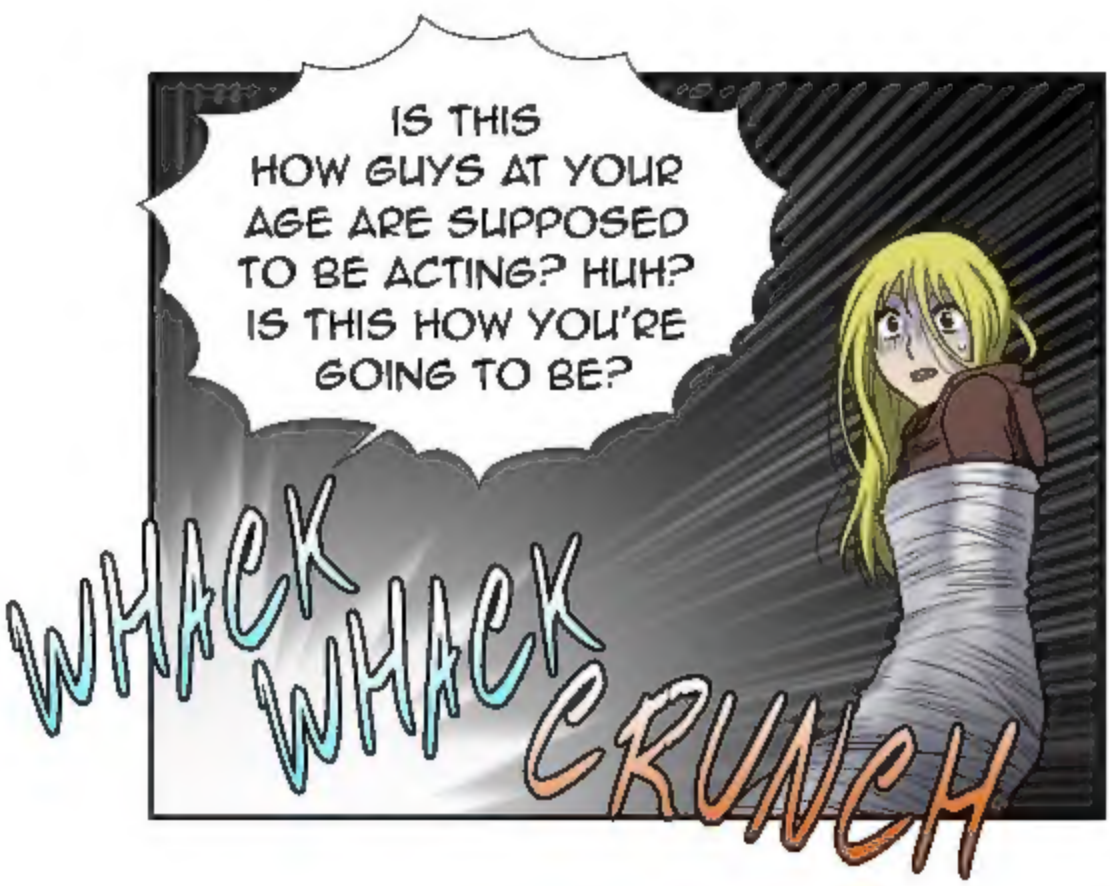
IT'S STILL BETTER THAN DYING, ISN'T IT?

YOU BASTARDS!

WH
AM

KSSSHHH
THUD

FLASH
WHO DO YOU CREEPS THINK YOU ARE!
WHAM
AGH!


IS THIS HOW GUYS AT YOUR AGE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ACTING? HUH? IS THIS HOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE?
WHACK
WHACK
CRUNCH

TAP
HEY.
GET UP.
THIS ISN'T
OVER...

HUH?
DING
YOU OBTAINED
41690 EXPERIENCE.

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